

Amend

(3) submitting the battery life signal to the money source in connection with the approval process.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the program is executed each time the electronic card seeks approval of a preselected number of payment card transactions.

21. A method as recited in claim 19, comprising the further step of:

(4) providing a user of the electronic card with a replacement electronic card before the battery life parameter drops below a selected threshold.

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Office Action asserts that claim 15 introduces no new limitations beyond claim 12, upon which it depends while claim 17 is exactly identical to claim 16. For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed as to claim 15 whereas claim 17 has been cancelled so that it could be rewritten as claim 18 so as to overcome this rejection.

Claim 15 adds the further step of: "submitting a battery life indicator that is based upon the battery life signal to the money source in connection with the approval process." The battery life indicator is defined in claim 14 (from which claim 15 depends) as being related to an estimated remaining battery life of the battery. By contrast, claim 12 deals with a low battery indicator. As explained in the specification at page 9, lines 14-22: